

15-17 YEARS OLD



Introduction¹

Injury is the leading cause of death of Washington teens. During 1999-2001, injuries among Washington teens were responsible for an annual average of:

- 87 deaths.
- 980 hospitalizations.
- About 38,650 visits to a hospital emergency department, or about one out of every seven children 15-17 years old.

Summary

Injury is the leading cause of death of Washington State teens 15-17 years old. Motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of injury-related death, and poisoning was the leading cause of injury-related hospitalization for teens. The injury-related death rate for Washington teens decreased by about 39 percent during 1981-2001.

¹ Unless otherwise specified, data are for injuries among children 15-17 years old during 1999-2001. Rates are per 100,000 children 15-17 years old who are Washington residents.

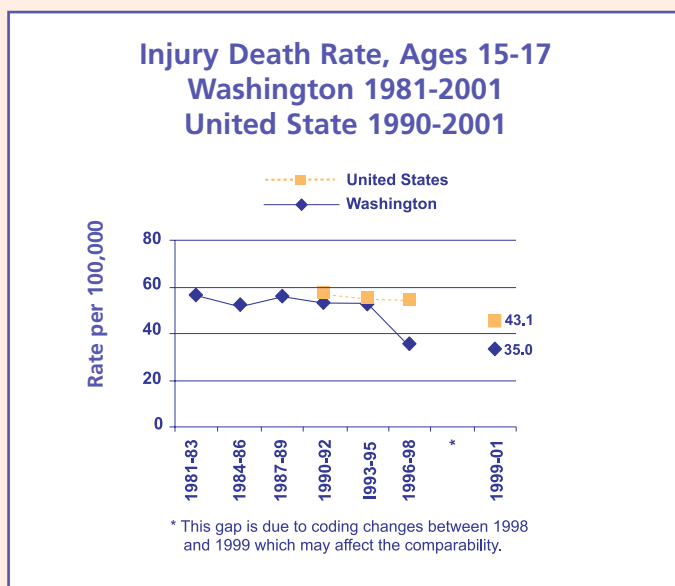
Time Trends²

From the three-year time period of 1981-83 to 1999-2001, the injury death rate for Washington children 15-17 years old declined significantly from 56.9 to 35.0 per 100,000. This represents about a 43 percent decrease in the injury-related death rate for this age group.

Since 1990³, Washington death rates for children 15-17 years old have been lower than those nationally.

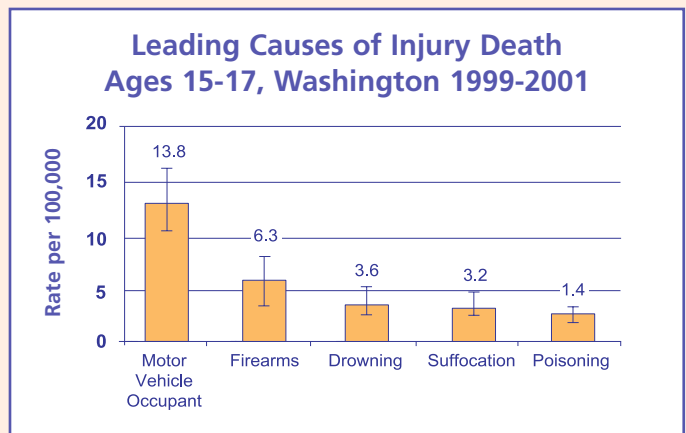
Intent

The majority of injury deaths (66 percent) and hospitalizations (69 percent) were unintentional. About 20 percent of deaths and hospitalizations were the result of self-inflicted injury.



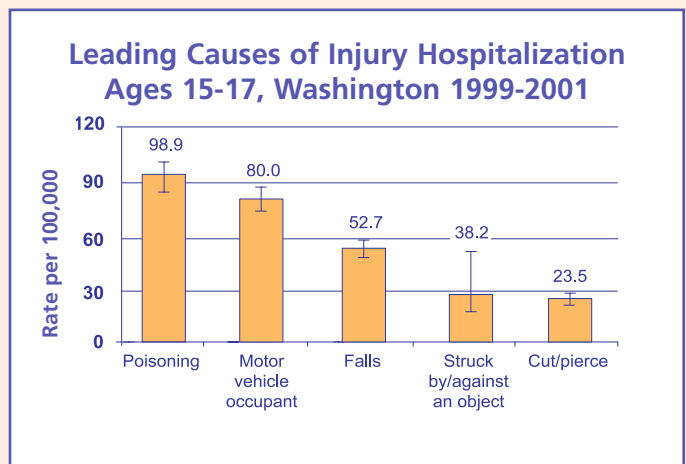
Leading Cause of Death

Motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of injury-related death for Washington teens 15-17 years old.



Leading Cause of Hospitalization⁴

Poisoning was the leading cause of injury-related hospitalization for Washington teens 15-17 years old.



For prevention strategies, see chapters on motor vehicle occupant injury, suicide, poisoning, drowning, and firearm injury.

² See Comparability Ratio section in Appendix D.

³ National injury death rates for children 15-17 years old are not available prior to 1990.

⁴ Struck by or against an object is defined as an injury resulting from being struck by or striking against objects or persons. Cut or pierce is defined as an injury caused by cutting and piercing instruments.